

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01

NIC-01 EA-11 IO-13 DRC-01 AID-20 /149 W

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R 181300Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3878

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, IR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO TEHRAN

REF: (A) TEHRAN 6597; (B) TEHRAN 6637

1. IMPORTANCE ATTACHED BY GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO SHORT VISIT TO TEHRAN BY FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU ON SEPTEMBER 17 WAS REFLECTED IN HEAVY MEDIA PLAY ACCORDED TO IT. THE SHAH HAD AN HOUR-LONG CONVERSATION WITH POMPIDOU FOLLOWING WHICH HE GAVE A BANQUET IN HONOR OF THE FRENCH CHIEF OF STATE. TOP IRANIAN OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA AND COURT MINISTER ALAM ATTENDED AS WELL AS FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT. A SECOND CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SHAH AND POMPIDOU FOLLOWING THE BANQUET WAS UNSCHEDULED, ACCORDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCES.

2. IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH, THE SHAH TOLD THE FRENCH LEADER THAT IRAN WISHED TO DEVELOP ITS TECHNICAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND CULTURAL TIES WITH FRANCE. HIM DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE SIMILARITY OF ATTITUDES AND OUTLOOKS SHARED BY IRAN AND FRANCE. IRAN WAS READY TO WELCOME WITH OPEN ARMS IRANIAN-FRENCH CULTURAL COOPERATION.

3. IN HIS RESPONSE POMPIDOU ASSURED THE IRANIAN MONARCH OF
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THE IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHED TO RELATIONS WITH IRAN.

FRANCE WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN IRAN'S "PRODIGIOUS" DEVELOPMENT. IRAN WAS A GREAT COUNTRY ENGAGED IN RAPID MODERNIZATION WHOSE INCREASING IMPORTANCE IN THE WORLD WAS RECOGNIZED IN IRAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION IN VIET-NAM.

4. COMMENT: THE SIGNS WE HAVE SO FAR INDICATE THAT THE POMPIDOU VISIT ALTHOUGH VERY SHORT IS CONSIDERED A SUCCESS BY THE IRANIANS. COURT MINISTER ALAM TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE SHAH WAS PLEASED WITH THE CONVERSATIONS (REFTEL B). ANOTHER INDICATOR IS A LONG COMMENTARY IN SEMI-OFFICIAL KAYHAN WHICH REGRETS THAT OVER THE PAST DECADE FRANCO-IRANIAN RELATIONS HAVE SOMEWHAT LANGUISHED. BUT THE POMPIDOU VISIT WAS SEEN AS CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO GREATER TIES IN THE FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEHRAN06646
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HELMS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730926/aaaaaswd.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TEHRAN 6597; (B) TEHRAN 6637
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <09-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU TO TEHRAN
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IR, (POMPIDOU, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005